# THE Little Review; OR, AN Inquisition of Scandal;

## Consisting in *Answers* of *Questions* and *Doubts*, *Remarks*, *Observation* and *Reflection*.

Friday, June 29. 1705.

AMong abundance of People that have been very Civil to the Society, this Gentleman seems to be particularly so —— but 'tis in a way by himself; and 'tis Answer sufficient to tell him, they understand him, and so may any-body that reads the Letter.

June 26. 1705.

SIR,

*HAving been a Religious Peruser of your* Review, *from the first that the World has been blest withal, I have been extreamly diverted with your Solution of several Doubts, particularly that Sublime one concerning the absurdity of* Her Majesty's Command. *And being throughly convinc'd of your Abilities in the* Latin, *as well as your Mother Tongue, by the* alacrity *you have in Quoting* Latin *Sentences upon Proper Occasions (which you are generally as happy in the Application, as in the Orthography and Syntax) and especially by your late ingenious Criticisms upon Dr.* B——*s Translation of* Horace; *I make bold to desire your sence of a Passage in the same Author, in his 8th* Epod.

Ore allaborandum est tibi.

*'Tis a pity any part of such a Writer should be lost for want of Understanding the Customs of the Times he wrote in, which if you contribute to the explaining of, you will deserve no less of the* Belles Lettres, *by such a Performance, than you have already of the Publick by your Learned Discourses on the Negoce and Pathetick exhortations to Peace, you will particularly oblige several Friends that joyn in this Request with*

*Your Admirer,*
S. H. G——th.
*Philolog.*

*We shall hope for an Answer in one of next Week's* Reviews *at farthest.*

To let his jibing Introduction alone, the Society thing fit to Reply as follows.

**First to their Criticisms upon Dr.** *Brown's* **Specimen of the Translation of** *Horace*, **they Answer, That jesting with them is a Substantial Token they cannot be otherwise Answer'd, but to let the Gentleman know that they did not take all the Advantages the Doctor's Specimen gave them, and that unless otherwise thus mov'd, they had no design to Expose his Work, they desire this Gentleman, or the Doctor, or any Body else that can, to reconcile the Poetry of the two following Lines to the Polite Character that Persons ought to have, who attempts to Translate such an Author as** *Horace*,

" *Th' Merchant Commends his Country Ville and Ease.*

" *Some Camps and Drums, and Trumpets of the War,*
" *Delight in, which their Fathers do Abhor.*

We desire the Gentleman to tells us Philosophically, in what Position the Tongue, Pallate, and other Organs of Speech must be understood to stand, with respect to Sound, to Usher that Harsh, Untunable abbreviation of *Th' Merchant* in the World, in the Musical Note of an *English* Verse; and we would be Obliged to him to shew us an Instance of the like, either in my Lord *Roscommon*, *Rochester*, *Wicherly* or *Dryden*.

As to the last, Parents *do abhor*; we desire to know, if all our Poets of any Authority and Character have not always abhor'd Yoaking two Verbs in that Scandalous Manner, or at least that generally they have not industriously avoided it, as a Lameness, and Ekeing out the Line for want of Measure.

To say nothing of the ease of turning both these Couplets; the first especially, because we will not pretend to invade the Doctor's Translation, seeing no occasion to envy him the Reputation he will get by the Poetry of it.

In the next Place, to come to the difficulty started out of *Horace*.

We thank the Gentleman for his good Opinion of the Author of these Sheets, that he is pleased to believe him not Lewd enough to know what was meant here.

And on the other hand, The Society assure him they know so much, that this Paper is not so be foul'd with any thing so beastly, but as this Gentleman might have met with an Answer to it, had his *Horace* been of the right Edition, so they give it him in the words Printed to it in *Horace cum notis Variorum*, in the *Dutch* Edition Printed at *Leyden*.

*Adeo obscœna sunt ista ut Salva Verecundiæ Explicari non Possint.*

As to what this Gentleman dislikes in the *Review* as to Trade and Peace, when he pleases to object, 'tis hop'd he may receive an Answer to his Satisfaction; in the mean time they are sorry the one do't please his Profanity of Knowledge in Matters of Negoce, by which he should seem to belong to the Commissioners of Trade, and they are yet more afflicted for him that Exhortations to Peace should give him any uneasiness; but 'tis hoped the Disorder may proceed from the just Operation proper Physick has upon a violent Distemper.

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THe Preamble of the following Letter seems to signifie, That the Gentleman concern'd, has not been so much a stranger to *Romances* as he would seem to have been to *Plays*, the Stile of his Introduction being so very particular, that the Society, who are resolv'd to be great Favourers of *Bombast*, could not forbear to Publish it, that the *Beauty of it* may Excite others to Imitate so exact a Stile, especially Men of Letters, and Students in Divinity,

Gentlemen,

I *Being a great Admirer of, and Well-wisher to your Work, being sensible of the great Benefit many do receive from your Civility, in resolving so Judicially and Obligingly the Question of your Humble Petitioners; do amongst the great croud of them, beg the favour of you, that you would be pleased to give me Answer to this following Question.*

*Whether a certain Person, who is a Young Student in Divinity, having a great mind to see a Play, notwithstanding he knows the great aversion his Friends and Relations have to those things, and being sensible of the great diskindess he may doe himself by so doing, if discovered, may not Lawfully and Rightly gratifie his* desire: *and to prevent any detriment to himself therefrom may not disguise himself, as by puting on a long Wigg and Sword (being a Garb he is not accustomed to) or by any other means to prevent his being known or taken notice of. In answering whereof, you will highly oblige, me who shall allwayes be ready to own the obligation.*

O. W.

For

For a Physician to ask Advice of a Patient, is somewhat unusual; but however, the Society (considering, that Men are apt to judge of Matters in Relation to themselves, either too Partially, because their wishes incline to such Judgment, or too severely, because they would not be suspected of too much Favour towards themselves) did resolve to give their Opinion in this Case, as follows;

Not to reflect upon the great Weakness of some that should be otherwise, there seems to be abundance of unreasonableness in the Design.

First, He has a great Mind, or a strong Inclination to see a Play, which are now generally so bad, that a Man may as easily go into a Battle and not get a Wound, as into a Play-House, and not return Infected; besides, may not this Military, or otherwise disguised Church-Man, wholly forgot his former Function; and desire the general Consequences of a Play, and so Fornication, or some other deadly Sin follows the gratifying his Desire.

2. Supposing the Play to be in it self indifferent, and as he secretly intimates, not deserving Censure, till found out. This Gentleman owns his Friends and Relations have a horrid Aversion to it, and consequently have forbidden him it; he herein disobeys his Relations, and makes that Sinful, which otherwise was supposed to be indifferent, by breaking a Commandment.

3. Being now beyond his Friend's Power (and his own two it seems) who had kept him from it, he is the more earnest to go, and even Interest, Darling Interest can't keep him back. The Society cannot believe the Gentleman, sensible of the diskindness a Discovery may do him: If he was, he would never trust so great an Affair as his own Welfare, to the small Foundation of a disguise; is it not probable he should meet some Acquaintance or other there, (for University Scholars have many) and there all is blown, and so he may in reality (after his Gown is forc'd off) continue his Red Coat for a Subsistence?

Upon the whole the Society concluded as to the thing, That if the Disguise continued unknown, the Gentleman would give himself too much Liberty, and if Reveal'd, he would give Offence to weaker Brethren, and as to the Person, they judged of him as of one that when he had his hand to the Plough, look'd back again upon the Pleasures he had resolv'd to deny himself.

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THe following Querists, we suppose, has read, that his Question was put often to the Primitive Fathers and Sufferings, who gave such Answers to it in their Torments, as frequently confounded their Adversaries, by seeing them die Triumphing and Sing in the Flames; but our Querist living in an Age when Miracles make no Converts, must have another Answer.

The Question is in a short Letter to the Society, thus.

HOW *shall we know whether Ours, or the Heathen Gods are the True.*

Among the great and undeniable Testimonies of the Being of a God, and the yet more Remarkable Distinctions God has been pleased to give of himself in the World, we single out this one as most proper for this Place, *viz.* That the Devil has on all occasions acknowledg'd it.

Now we own it may be objected, the Devil is a very lying Fellow, and no heed to be given to him——— but on the other hand, when he has been forc'd to Confess things against his Will, when he has paid a Homage he hates, to a Power Supream to his own, 'tis a Demonstration that the Truth is too great to be Conceal'd; if the Querist desires to know in what Instances the Devil has made these acknowledgments, we refer him to the Scripture, and a croud of Instances Ecclesiastical History is full of. And if this be not sufficient, he shall have a farther, and more satisfactory Answer upon demand.

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